It will be seen from the above data that the releases have been, by and large, in line with the allocations. However, some shortage is reported to have been felt in Feb., 1988 due to labour problems at Haldia and non-availability of adequate number of tankwagons. The situation has since improved.

Safety and Environment Institute in Goa

1299. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has decided to establish a Safety and Environment Institute in Goa during the current plan period;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the said Institute is likely to start functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) ONGC propose to set up an Institue of Petroleum Safety and Environment Management at Goa. The details of the activities envisaged in the Institute are:—

(i) To promtoe the standard of safety, Health and Environment.

(ii) To develop facilities towards Safety and Environment training.

(c) The Institue is likely to be set up by 1992.

Irregularities committed by the Chairman and Directors of the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Limited

1300. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that statutory auditors have pointed out financial irregularities including foreign exchange irregularities being committed by the Chairman and Directors of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Limited.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Board of Directors passed some resolutions against the auditors justifying the financial irregularities;

(d) if so, the details thereof and what specific steps Government have taken against the Chairman and Board of Directors in this regard; and

(e) whether Government propose to recover the amount involved from the Chairman and Board of Directors; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELPOMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Statutory Auditors have pointed out financial irregularities committed by the Chairman and Directors on the Board of the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Ltd. in their reports for the cooperative years 1980-81 and 1981-82. These irregularities were mainly on account of TA/DA drawn by the Chairman and Directors of the Board. The audit reports for the years 1980-81 and 1981-82 have already been laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 5.5.86 and 26.8.87 respectively.

(c) and (d) The Board of Directors passed a resolution in Feb. 1986 that the Auditors' view was onesided and the concerned persons had not been given an opportunity to express their views by the Auditors. On the

direction of the Board, opportunity was given to concerned Directors by the Managing Directors and the replies received were sent to the Auditors for their consideration.

The Auditors conveyed their unhappiness to the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies over the improper language used by the Directors concerned. They stressed in their reply to the Central Registrar that all audit observations were made by them after carefully going through records produced before them for their verification and explanation provided by the Federation. They also informed the Managing Director that the request of the Federation regarding possibility of amending their audit report was "unprecedented".

(e) In case of tours undertaken by the Chairman, ex-post-facto approval was given by the Board of Directors. In regard to financial irregularities committed by the Vice-Chairman, and other Directors the matter has been taken up with the Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Unauthorised foreign tour of the Chairman of NFICL

1301. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri M. J. Shah, Chairman of NFICL (National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Ltd.) has gone abroad without proper permission from Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that he misused foreign exchange without proper permission of RBI; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government under FERA against the Chairman?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter was examined by the Enforcement Directorate in consultation with RBI. They have come to the conclusion that there is no scope for enquiry against the Chairman under FERA.

Commemorative stamp in honour of Samarth Ramdas

1302. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to issue commemorative stamp in honour of a Maharashtra Saint Shri Samarth Ramdas; and

(b) if so, by when the stamp is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Commemorative stamp in honour of Samarth Ramdas has been issued recently on 1.5.1988 in denomination of 60 paise.

Small scale industrial projects in Sri Lanka

1303. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to set up small scale industrial projects on turnkey basis in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the number of small scale projects to be set up in Sri Lanka; and

(c) what is the purpose of setting up these projects in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) There is no government decision to